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Plant Pest News

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UNDESCRIBED NEMATODE FOUND IN THE U.S.

A root-knot nematode, new to science, was collected at Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, in September 1977. The nematode was observed in soil samples collected by a grape grower and sent to the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Nematode Diagnostic Service Laboratory. The sample was taken from a section of the infested vineyard that had shown symptoms of decline for several years, in spite of using fertilizers. Grape is the only known host.

In early 1979, G. W. Bird and L. M. Rose of the Michigan State University Nematology Program, and A. M. Golden, USDA Nematology Laboratory at Beltsville, MD, began work to describe this new species. According to Golden, the description of this new species will be published in the *Journal of Nematology* to be issued in July 1981.

According to W. Friedman, Nematologist, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), the life cycle of this species is presumed to be the same as for other *Meloidogyne* species. Females cause no detectable swellings on grape roots, protrude from the root surface, and are surrounded posteriorly by an exceptionally large gelatinous sac in which 50-400 eggs are deposited (Rose 1980).

This species was found only in Mattawan on about 1-ha (3 acres). The vines in the infested area were pulled and burned and the ground was treated with nematicides. Cherries are scheduled to be planted in the spring of 1982.

A survey for this new nematode in 127 vineyards that represented 60 growers in 4 counties was made in November 1980. The results were negative (Lovitt 1981).

References

Lovitt, D. F. Southwestern Michigan grape survey 1980: Michigan State Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University cooperating. 1981. 3p. Michigan State Dept. of Agriculture and Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, MI.

Rose, L. Comparative morphology of an undescribed species of the *Meloidogyninae* from *Vitis* L. in Michigan. *J. Nematol.* 12(4):236; 1980.

NEW PEST ADVISORY GROUP

The New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG) evaluates pests new to the United States. The group then relates the available options to the Deputy Administrator, PPQ, concerning these new pests and recommends which option(s) should be adopted. The description of this process is available from the Director's Office, PPQ, in a document entitled "Procedures for Evaluating and Reacting to Reports of New Pest Occurrences in the United States." The purpose of that document is to provide the guidelines and procedures by which PPQ (1) evaluates the significance of a new pest brought to its attention from any source, (2) determines whether a response, such as a regulatory action, is required to protect U.S. agriculture, (3) recommends, when warranted, regulatory or other action, and (4) communicates to State Plant Regulatory Offices, North American Plant Protection Organization, agricultural industry groups, the scientific community, and the general public information on PPQ's position and intention about a newly reported pest. The authority for PPQ to evaluate and react to new pests is authorized by the Organic Act as amended March 15, 1976, Section 102.

Summaries of reports of new pests and NPAG recommendations are published in the Plant Pest Newsletter (PPN).

MORE CEREAL LEAF BEETLES FOUND IN TENNESSEE

Oulema melanopus, cereal leaf beetle, was found in the following counties for new county records: Bedford - on the Old Columbia Road near Unionville, Davidson - off Bell Road between U.S. Highway 31 (Alternate) and National Interstate Highway 65 south, and Marshall - on the Old Columbia Road near Chapel Hill, all were collected on May 4, 1981, by M. Cooper, Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), who also identified the specimens; Dickson - about 2-3 km (about 1-2 mi) west on the Ruskin-Jewel Cave Road and Houston - 1 km (about 0.5 mi) south of State Highway 49 on the Ruskin-Jewel Cave Road, both were taken on May 5, collections and identifications were done by L. Shanks, TDA; Coffee - near exit 110 on National Interstate Highway 24, between State Highways 53 and 55, and Warren - on U.S. Highway 70S northeast of Centertown on Cooper Road on May 6, both were collected and identified by J. Eisler, J. Keener, and B. Cole, TDA; and De Kalb - at the intersection of State Highway 96 and U.S. Highway 70 on May 8, collected and identified by B. Cole.

SUGARCANE SMUT ESTABLISHED IN LOUISIANA

Sugarcane smut, Ustilago scitaminea Syd., was found on sugarcane (Saccharum officinarum) on a farm at Loreauville, Iberia Parish (east of New Iberia), by F. Louviere on May 27, 1981, for a new State record. The presence of smut was confirmed from characteristic symptoms and chlamydospores observed by D. Fontenot, Sugarcane Specialist, Louisiana State University, Extension Service, and H. Koike, Research Plant Pathologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Science and Education Administration, at Houma.

As of June 10 this disease was identified in 6 of the 17 sugarcane-growing parishes: Lafayette, St. Martin, Iberia, Vermilion, St. Mary, and Lafourche. Smut has been found on about 24 farms. Varieties found infected are CP 65-357, MCo 310, and CP 73-351.

Known distribution includes Florida, Hawaii, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, and in other sugarcane-growing countries of Africa and Asia. Known hosts are Saccharum officinarum, S. barberi, S. spontaneum, and interspecific hybrids of Saccharum (sugarcane). Infections are economic on susceptible varieties of sugarcane (Martin et al.).

Reference

Martin et al. Sugarcane smut (Ustilago scitaminea). Coop. Plant Pest Rep. 3(28): 343; 1978.

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PEST INTERCEPTIONS OF QUARANTINE SIGNIFICANCE AT PORTS OF ENTRY

The following, furnished by T. Wallenmaier, PPQ, provides a sampling of members of the family Curculionidae, i.e. "weevils" that are taken in quarantine work.

<u>Pest</u>	<u>Probable Origin</u>	<u>Port of Entry</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Balanogastriis kolae</u> (Desbrochers)	Nigeria	Boston	B. Pforte	Adults and larvae are often found in kola nuts in cargo and passenger baggage.
<u>Cryptorhynchus mangiferae</u> (F.)	Thailand	Los Angeles	C. Iijima	This is the notorious mango weevil found in mango seeds in passenger baggage.
<u>Cylas</u> sp. probably <u>brunneus</u> (F.)	Africa	Kennedy Airport, NY	N. Shapiro	Larvae and adults were found in white potatoes. Other exotic species are found in sweet potatoes. These foreign species are closely related to the sweetpotato weevil, a pest in the U.S.
<u>Exophthalmus quadrivittatus</u> (Olivier)	Dominican Republic	Kennedy Airport, NY	D. Kepich	This species was found on nine crates of parsley flown into New York. It is known to be a pest in sugarcane fields.
<u>Listroderes</u> sp.	Japan	Seattle	G. Browne	Larvae were taken in Chinese cabbage in ships stores. Species in this genus are serious pests of vegetable crops.
<u>Pissodes nitidus</u> Roelofs	Japan	San Francisco	D. Wong	Some weevils are wood pests, including this species found boring in wooden pallets of cargo.

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